

Statement by Mr. Elmer G. Cato, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations (1 May 2007)

The DPI would of course not be able to share the UN story on its own and needs the support of the media. We are thus heartened to hear from the Undersecretary General that the DPI has been successful in its efforts to strengthen its partnership with journalists by being more sensitive to their requirements. It is our hope in the coming year that the DPI would be able to further expand and enhance its relations with the members of the media not just in New York but also in other parts of the world.

Mr. Chairman,

The Philippines would like to take this opportunity to give emphasis to the vital role the DPI plays in promoting a better and peaceful world. We laud its efforts to promote and strengthen dialogue among civilizations and the culture of peace as a means of enhancing understanding among nations.

My Delegation would like the DPI to continue providing the necessary support for the dissemination of information pertaining to the aforementioned issues and to take due steps in fostering the culture of dialogue among civilizations and promoting religious and cultural understanding through the mass media.

The Philippines looks forward to the support of the DPI in the ongoing efforts to promote interfaith cooperation, particularly the convening in September of a high-level dialogue' on inter-religious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace which we are spearheading along with Pakistan and a number of other member-states.

The Philippines is pleased with how the DPI has been promoting issues of importance to the international community, especially the thematic communications campaigns it undertook in support of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and the Millennium Development Goals - issues which are of importance to my country. We would like to see more of these activities in the future.

Mr. Chairman,

The Philippines wishes to stress the importance of enhancing the role and capacity of the DPI in the field of peacekeeping operations. We look forward to the DPI's continued cooperation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in raising public awareness on the new realities in modern-day peacekeeping, most especially the surge in the demand for Blue Helmets to support the growing need for multidimensional and complex operations in conflict areas worldwide.